



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

12¢
IND.

25
FEB

HERE COMES...

DAREDEVIL



THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

WOW-EEEEEE!

JUST WAIT'LL YOU MEET
OL' MATT MURDOCK'S
SWIGIN'

TWIN BROTHER!



"ENTER:
**THE
LEAP
FROG!**"

DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

"ENTER: THE LEAP-FROG!"

DO YOU LIKE A YARN THAT BEGINS WITH A WALLOP? TRY THIS ONE ON FOR SIZE--

A FIGURE-- LEAPING INTO THE AIR AT MY RIGHT-- WITH OTHERS RUNNING AFTER HIM! SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE!

SOMEBODY STOP THAT GUY! HE'S BEEN LEAPING ALL OVER THE PLACE! NONE OF THE PLANES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE OFF!

HOLY COW! LOOK AT THAT JUMP! HE'S PRACTICALLY A HUMAN FROG!

I HEAR THE SOUND OF POWERFUL SPRINGS UNCOILING AS HE LEAPS UPWARD!

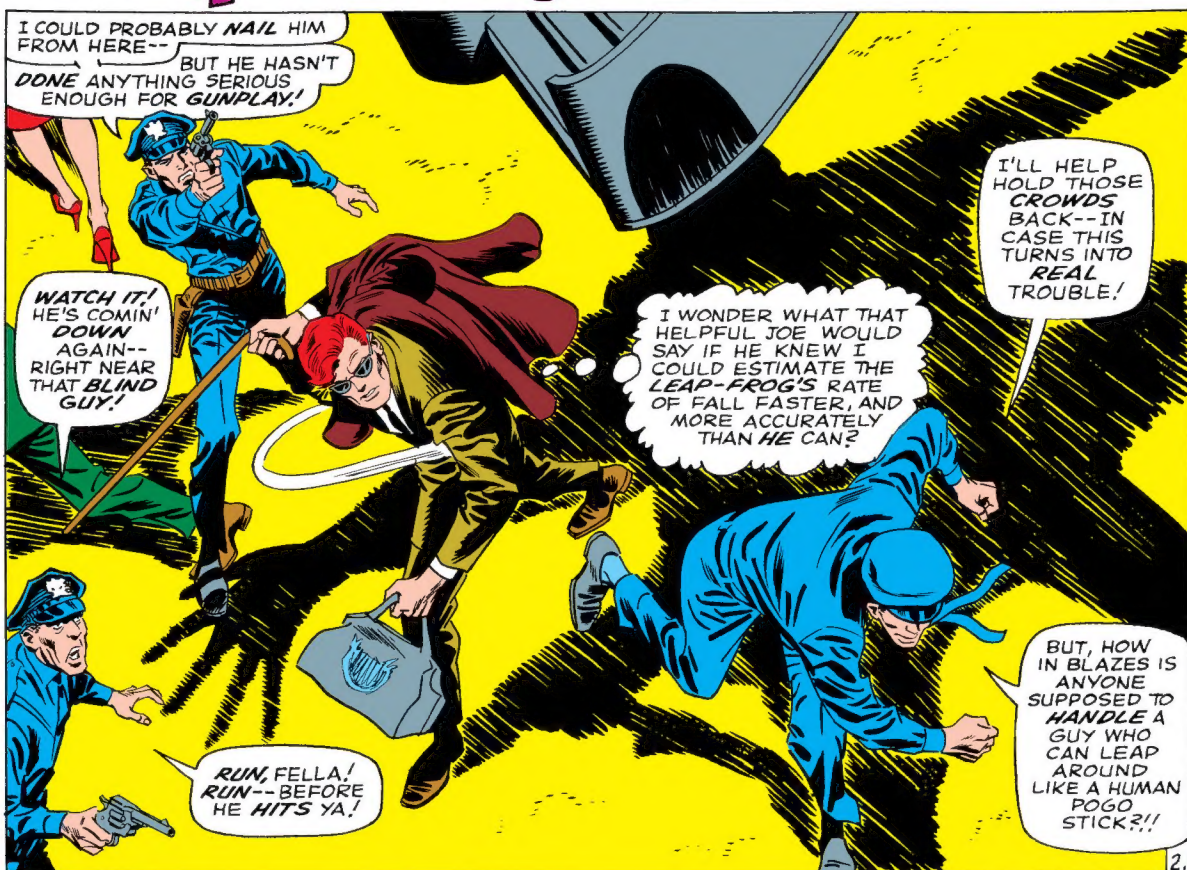
IF ONLY I WERE WEARING MY DAREDEVIL COSTUME!

FLIGHT
7

IZZAT ENOUGH TO WHET YOUR APPETITE, FRANTIC ONE? 'CAUSE, IF IT IS--

LET'S GO!

A ★ GENE COLAN
STAN LEE
EPIC EXTRAVAGANZA!
INKED BY: FRANK GIACOIA LETTERED BY: ART SIMEK



JUST RELAX, CHUM--AND YOU WON'T GET HURT!

A GUY GETS TIRED OF JUMPING AROUND-- BUT, WITH YOU FOR A HOSTAGE, I OUGHTTA BE ABLE TO TAKE A LITTLE BREATHER NOW!

ONE THING'S FOR SURE-- HE'S NO WEAKLING!

THAT ARM OF HIS WOULD MEAN BUSINESS IN ANY KIND OF FIGHT!

THAWNG!

BUT DAREDEVIL'S FOUGHT STRONG MEN BEFORE--AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT!

THE ONLY THING IS-- THIS IS ONE TIME OL' DD WILL HAVE TO BEG OFF! I CAN'T GET INTO COSTUME WITH A CROWD AROUND ME--

AND, MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO, I CAN'T TACKLE THAT JOKER AS MATT MURDOCK!

IT MIGHT SEEM A LITTLE ODD FOR A SIGHTLESS LAWYER TO FIGHT WITH THE SKILL OF DAREDEVIL HIMSELF!

THAT HORRIBLE CREATURE SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF HIMSELF--PICKING ON SUCH A POOR, HELPLESS YOUNG MAN!

LET HIM GO, LEAP-FROG! LET HIM GO THIS MINUTE!

LADY, WATCH OUT WITH THAT UMBRELLA, HUH? THIS ISN'T A HELMET I'M WEARIN'!

AH, REST TIME IS OVER!

SO, I RELEASE YOU NOW, MY UNWILLING FRIEND!

MY LITTLE TEST WAS A TOTAL SUCCESS! NOTHING CAN STOP ME!

THE NEXT TIME I STRIKE-- IT WILL BE--FOR REAL!

HE'S ESCAPING! AND I CAN'T DO A THING ABOUT IT-- NOW!

WELL, HE'S NO CONCERN OF MINE--YET!

I'VE A MUCH BIGGER PROBLEM WAITING FOR ME-- BACK AT THE OFFICE!

I'VE GOT TO EXPLAIN MY ABSENCE--SOMEHOW!

AND, WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF THE LAW OFFICE OF NELSON AND MURDOCK--

FOGGY--I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THIS LETTER FROM SPIDER-MAN TO MATT-- SAYING THAT HE KNOWS MATT IS REALLY-- DAREDEVIL!

THAT WALL-CRAWLER HAS TO BE WRONG!

MATT IS TOTALLY BLIND! IT JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE!

I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T OPEN IT! IT WAS ADDRESSED TO MATT PERSONALLY!

DON'T REPROACH YOURSELF FOR THAT, KAREN! MATT WAS MISSING--WE WERE DESPERATE TO FIND HIM--AND THAT LETTER LOOKED LIKE OUR ONLY CLUE!

BUT--WHY WOULD SPIDER-MAN HAVE WRITTEN SUCH A LETTER--IF IT WEREN'T TRUE?

ANYONE WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME THING!

THAT MAY BE SOMETHING WE'LL NEVER KNOW!

BUT, I WISH THAT MATT REALLY WERE DAREDEVIL!

AT LEAST WE KNOW THAT DAREDEVIL IS ALIVE--SINCE THE NEWSPAPER CARRIED THE REPORT OF HIS ADVENTURE WITH KA-ZAR IN ENGLAND

LAST NIGHT! * STILL, THAT PROVES SPIDER-MAN IS WRONG! WE KNOW THAT MATT DIDN'T LEAVE THE COUNTRY!

OR-- DID HE?

YOU SAW IT HERE LAST ISH, DIDN'T YOU? --SNOOPY STAN.

AT THAT MOMENT, EVEN THOUGH KAREN AND FOGGY ARE SPEAKING IN HUSHED TONES BEHIND A HEAVY OAK DOOR--

OH, FOGGY--WHAT IF WE NEVER HEAR FROM MATT AGAIN? WHAT IF--WE NEVER KNOW--

I--JUST DON'T THINK--I COULD BEAR IT--IF--HE'S GONE OUT OF MY LIFE--FOREVER!

KAREN'S VOICE! --ON THE VERGE OF TEARS!

AT A TIME LIKE THIS-- I ALMOST WISH I DIDN'T POSSESS AN ULTRA-KEEN SENSE OF HEARING!

AT LEAST, THE TRIP FROM THE AIRPORT GAVE ME TIME TO INVENT AN EXCUSE FOR DISAPPEARING FROM THE SPORTS ARENA DURING THE FIGHT WITH THE TRI-ANDROID! *

IT'S A MIGHTY WEAK EXPLANATION-- BUT, WHEN THEY SEE ME ALIVE AND KICKING, THEY'LL JUST HAVE TO BELIEVE IT!

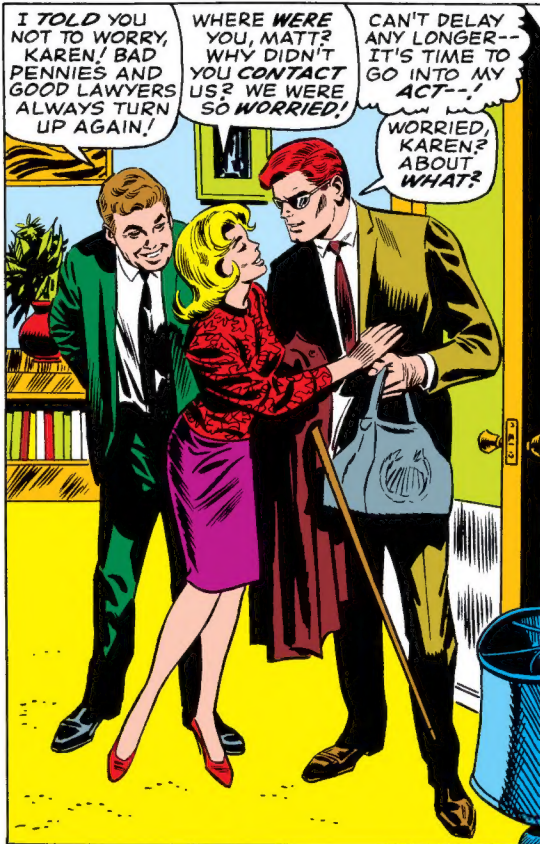
WELL, I CAN'T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER! HERE GOES--!

*WE PRESENTED THE TRI-ANDROID BACK IN ISH #22--OR WAS IT #21? WOULD'JA BELIEVE #23?---SCATTER-BRAINED STAN.

HELLO-- IS ANYBODY HERE?

MATT! MATT --IT--IT'S YOU! IT'S REALLY YOU!

MATTHEW-- YOU OLD SONUVAGUN! YOU'RE OKAY! YOU'RE BACK!



I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY, KAREN! BAD PENNIES AND GOOD LAWYERS ALWAYS TURN UP AGAIN!

WHERE WERE YOU, MATT? WHY DIDN'T YOU CONTACT US? WE WERE SO WORRIED!

CAN'T DELAY ANY LONGER-- IT'S TIME TO GO INTO MY ACT--!

WORRIED, KAREN? ABOUT WHAT?



GOSH! I'LL BET THAT BOY DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE NOTE I LEFT FOR YOU!

BOY? NOTE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHEN I FINALLY LEFT THE ARENA, I FELT VERY TIRED-- I SUPPOSE THE STRAIN OF ALL THE EXCITEMENT FINALLY GOT TO ME! SO I LEFT A NOTE, TELLING YOU I'D BE TAKING A FEW DAYS OFF--TO REST UP AT THE SEASHORE!

I GAVE IT TO A YOUNG USHER-- BUT I SUPPOSE HE WASN'T ABLE TO FIND YOU!

IT WAS CARELESS OF ME --I SHOULD HAVE LATER PHONED, TO MAKE SURE!



"YOU SEE, AS SOON AS I REALIZED THE REAL DAREDEVIL HAD APPEARED IN THE RING, I KNEW THAT MY OWN FOOLISH DISGUISE WAS NO LONGER NEEDED."

WOW! LOOK AT DAREDEVIL FIGHT! THAT GUY CAN'T EVEN TOUCH HIM!

DAREDEVIL IS HERE!

NOW, IF I CAN JUST DUCK OUT OF HERE DURING THE EXCITEMENT --WITHOUT BEING NOTICED!



"LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO FEEL MY WAY OUT INTO THE ALLEY, WHERE I QUICKLY GOT RID OF MY BOGUS DAREDEVIL OUTFIT! THEN, THINKING YOU WOULD RECEIVE THE NOTE I LEFT YOU, I HEADED FOR THE SEASHORE--!"

WHAT A BREAK! I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THE REAL DAREDEVIL HADN'T SHOWN UP!



I HATE TELLING A PHONY STORY LIKE THAT TO THEM--BUT, I'VE NO OTHER CHOICE!

BUT, JUDGING BY HER PULSE BEAT, KAREN IS STILL SUSPICIOUS!--WHY?

I'D LOVE TO BELIEVE YOU, MATT--BUT--

BUT WHAT, KAREN?

WE MIGHT AS WELL **LEVEL** WITH YOU, MATT! YOU RECEIVED A LETTER--FROM **SPIDER-MAN!**

HE CLAIMS TO KNOW FOR **SURE** THAT YOU'RE **DAREDEVIL!**

WHAT WOULD MAKE HIM SAY THAT? **SPIDER-MAN** HASN'T THE TIME TO MAKE RASH ACCUSATIONS!

SPIDER-MAN! THE ONLY ONE WHO MANAGED TO SENSE THE TRUTH!

*IT HAPPENED WHEN THEY FOUGHT IN ISH#16! IF YOU MISSED IT, TURN IN YOUR BILLY CLUB!
--STERN STAN!

MATTHEW, OLD BOY--IF YOU EVER THOUGHT **FAST**, YOU'D BETTER DO IT **NOW--!**

OKAY, GROUP--I CAN SEE THAT I CAN'T KEEP THE **TRUTH** FROM YOU ANY LONGER! YOU'RE **FORCING** ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT--MY TWIN BROTHER!

YOUR--**TWIN BROTHER!**

I'VE NEVER **TOLD** YOU ABOUT HIM BEFORE--BECAUSE HE ASKED ME **NOT** TO! HIS NAME IS--EH--**MIKE**--MIKE MURDOCK--AND HE'S A **DEAD RINGER** FOR ME!

COME OFF IT, FELLA! I **ROOMED** WITH YOU ALL THRU **COLLEGE--**

WE WERE **BUDDIES--** WE CONFIDED ABOUT **EVERY-THING--** AND YOU NEVER MENTIONED A BROTHER!

I, EH--I **COULDN'T**, FOGGY--

EVEN IN **THOSE** DAYS HE WAS A **LONER--** ALWAYS PRACTICING TO BE AN **ADVENTURER**--HE NEVER WANTED **ANYONE** TO KNOW ABOUT HIM--

AND, SINCE HE WAS MY OWN **TWIN BROTHER**, I KEPT HIS **SECRET--** ALL THESE YEARS!

WE'RE BOTH **LAWYERS**, MATT! YOU **KNOW** HOW THIN THAT STORY SOUNDS!

THE TRUTH SOMETIMES **DOES**, FOGGY! ANYWAY, MIKE WAS ALWAYS **WILD--** SORT OF A BLACK SHEEP TYPE! I WAS NEVER TOO **ANXIOUS** FOR PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT HIM!

SURELY YOU DON'T FIND IT EASIER TO BELIEVE THAT A **BLIND MAN** CAN BE A COSTUMED **SUPER-HERO?**

WHAT'S THE **DIFFERENCE**, FOGGY? THE IMPORTANT THING IS--MATT IS **ALL RIGHT--** HE'S **BACK** WITH US AGAIN!

I'M AS PLEASED AS YOU ARE, KAREN--BUT HE'S MY OWN **PARTNER!** I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE **BOTTOM** OF THIS!

I WANT TO **MEET** MIKE MURDOCK!

I WAS A **FOOL** FOR LYING! NOW HE WANTS TO **MEET** A BROTHER WHO DOESN'T **EXIST!** BUT, I'VE GOT TO BLUFF IT THRU **SOMEHOW!**

OKAY, FOGGY--YOU'LL **BOTH** MEET HIM--**SOON!** I **PROMISE!**

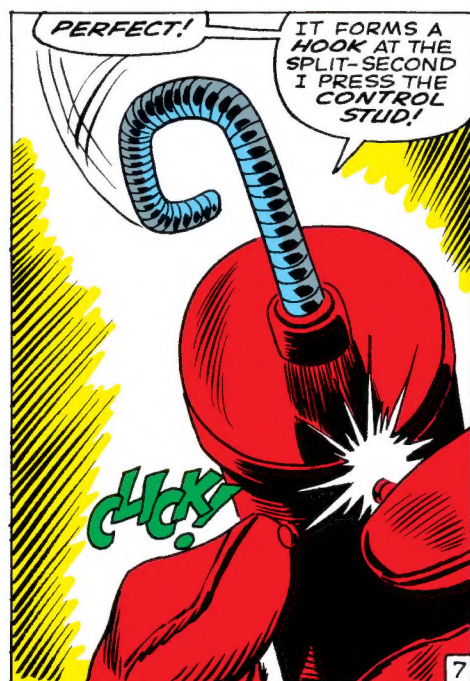
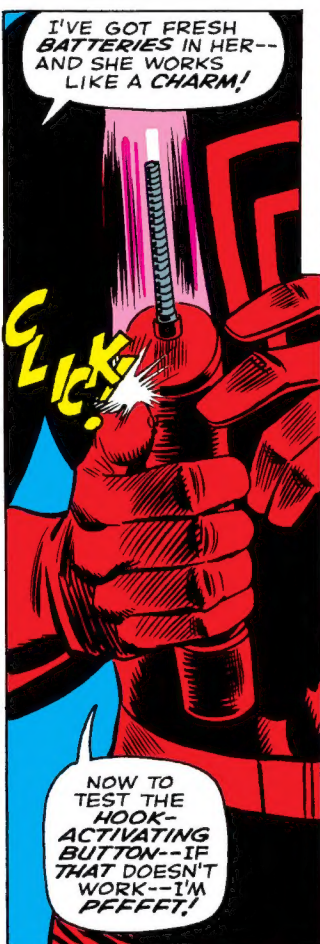
AND NOW, I'VE A LOT OF **WORK** TO CATCH UP WITH--

WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO **LEAVE** ANYWAY, MATT!

I'LL SEE YOU HOME, KAREN!

THE **BRAILLE** COPIES OF OUR LATEST BRIEFS ARE IN THE USUAL PLACE!

THANKS, KAREN! GOOD NIGHT, YOU TWO!





NOW, SO LONG AS I HOLD MY FINGER DOWN ON THE **RELEASE** BUTTON, THE **FLEXIBLE CABLE** SNAPS OUT TO ITS FULL LENGTH WITH THE FLICK OF MY WRIST... AND I'M IN **BUSINESS!**



THAT'S IT! IF IT WORKED ANY **BETTER**, I'D HAVE TO **FEED** IT!

FUNNY-- ITS OPERATION IS **SIMPLICITY** ITSELF, AND YET NOBODY'S EVER BEEN ABLE TO GUESS ITS **SECRET!**

IT'S JUST LIKE I'VE ALWAYS CLAIMED-- THE **SIMPLEST** THINGS ARE USUALLY THE **BEST!**

--AND THERE ARE FEWER **PARTS** TO GET OUT OF ORDER!



BUT, I'VE BEEN SO WRAPPED-UP IN MY OWN LITTLE PROBLEMS, THAT I ALMOST **FORGOT--**

I WANT TO LEARN MORE-- **LOTS** MORE-- ABOUT THAT **LEAP-FROG** CHARACTER!

MAYBE THERE'LL BE SOME MENTION OF HIM ON THE LATE NEWS SPECIAL--HE SURE SEEMED LIKE A **DOOZY!**

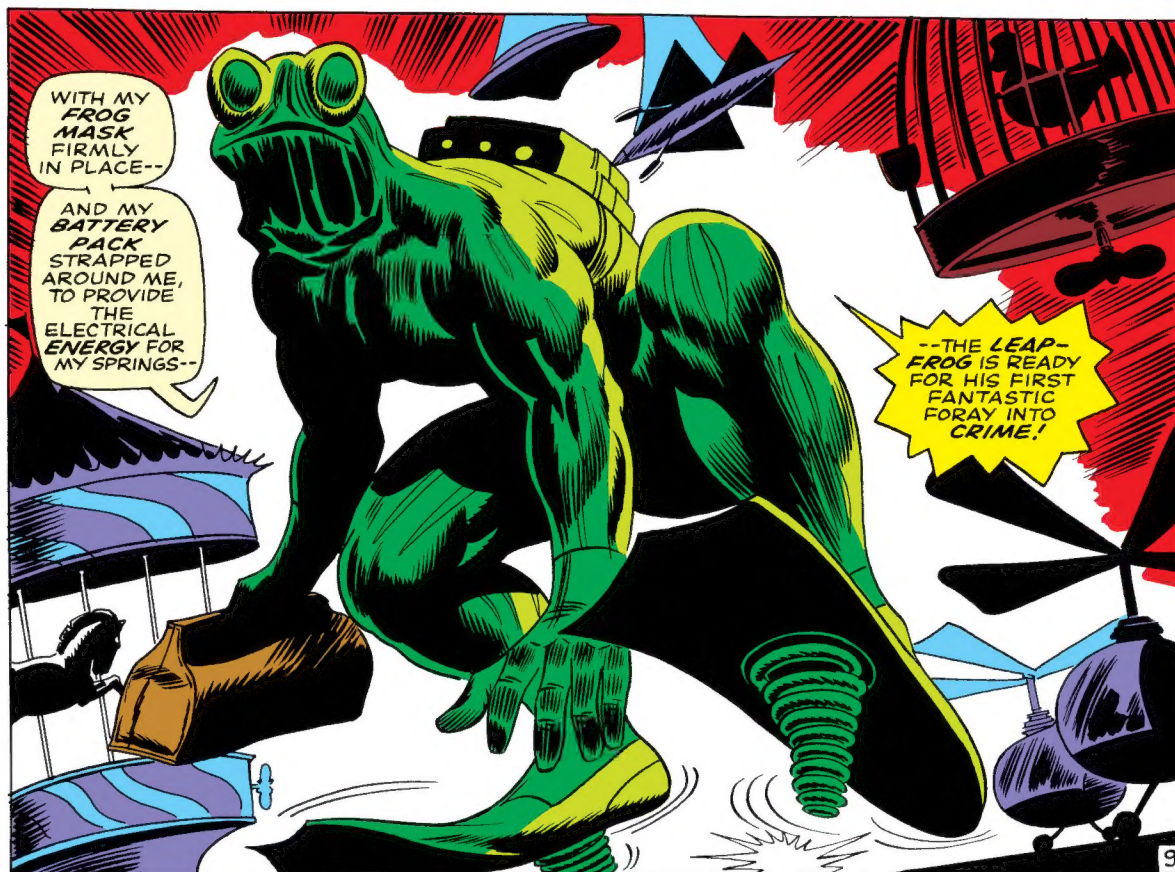
I WONDER HOW I'D **FIGHT** A SWINGER WHO CAN **LEAP** LIKE THAT!

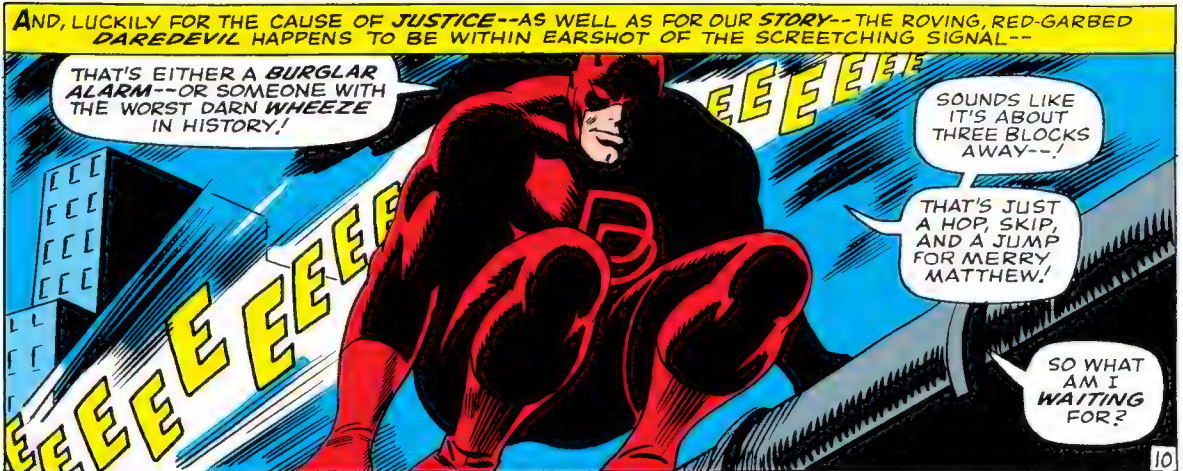
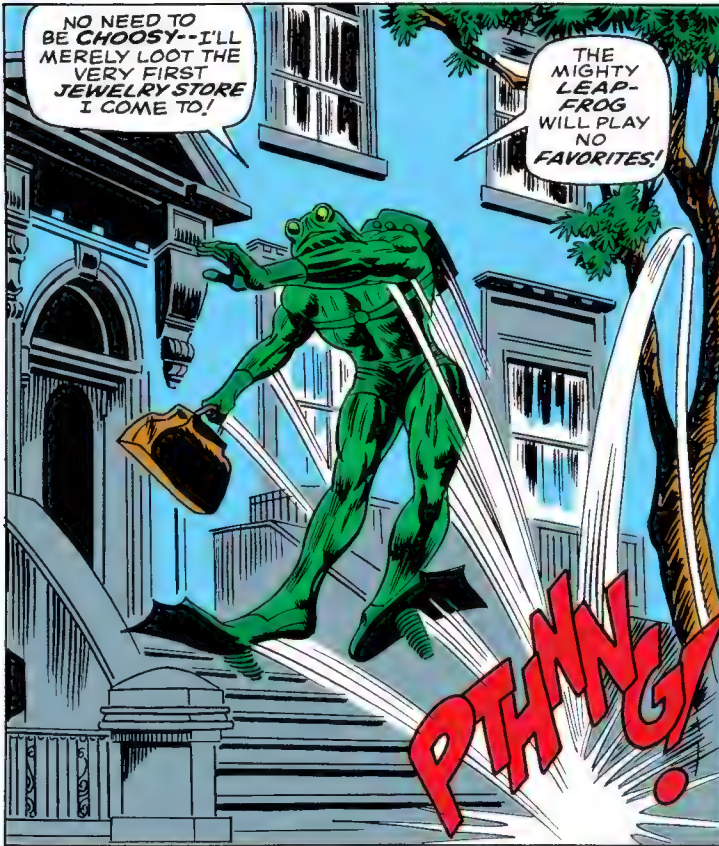


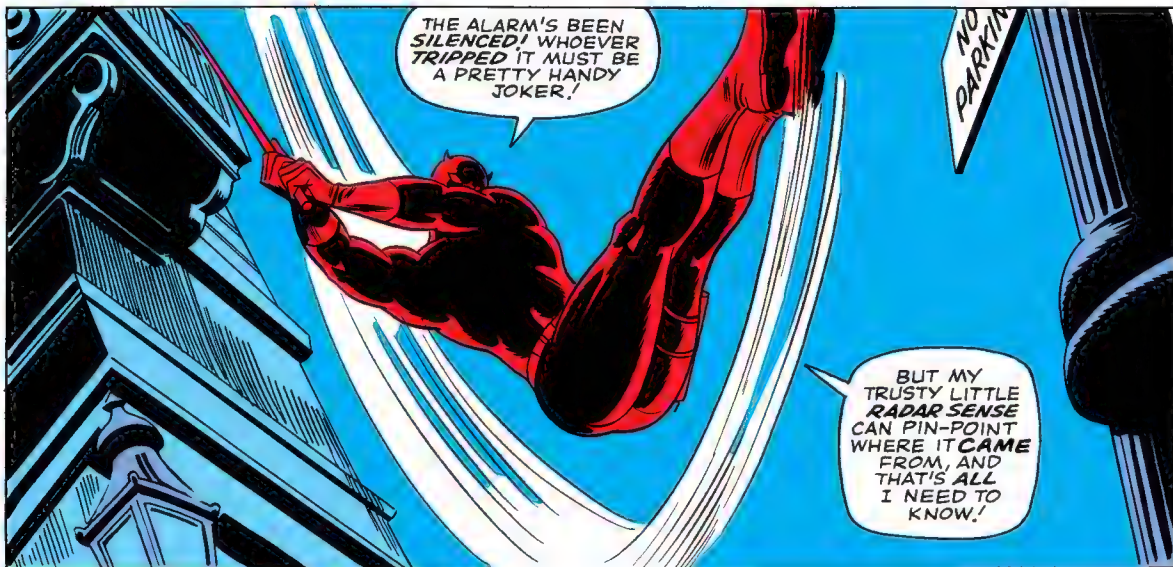
AND, AT THAT MOMENT, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN--

NOW I'M READY FOR THE **BIG** TIME!

BEFORE I'M THRU, THE **LEAP-FROG** WILL BE THE MOST FAMOUS NAME IN THE ANNALS OF **CRIME!**







YOU RED-SUITED FOOL! DON'T YOU REALIZE YET THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH THE IMPOSSIBLE?

THE STEEL SPRINGS COILED AT MY FEET MAKE ME A DOZEN TIMES FASTER--MORE AGILE THAN YOU CAN EVER HOPE TO BE!



AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T YET SEEN ME EXERCISE MY GREATEST TALENT--!

YOU MEAN THERE'S MORE?

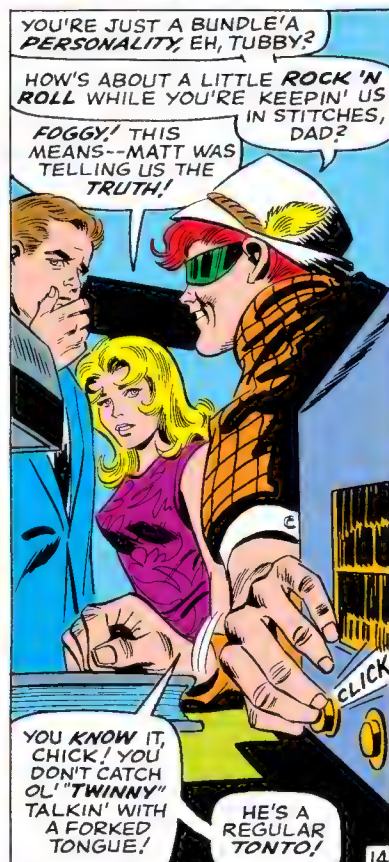
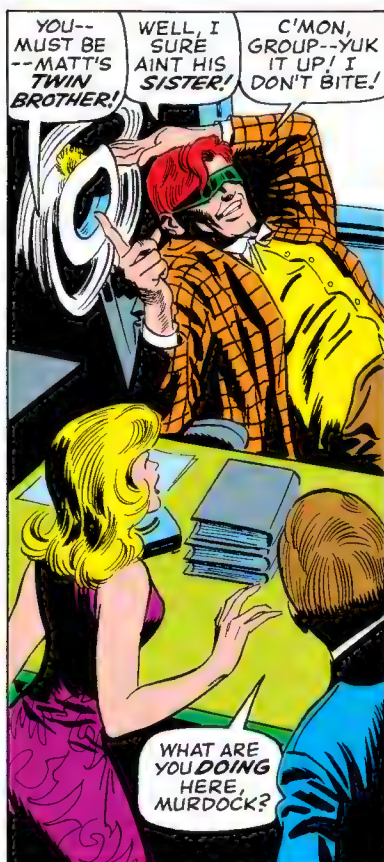
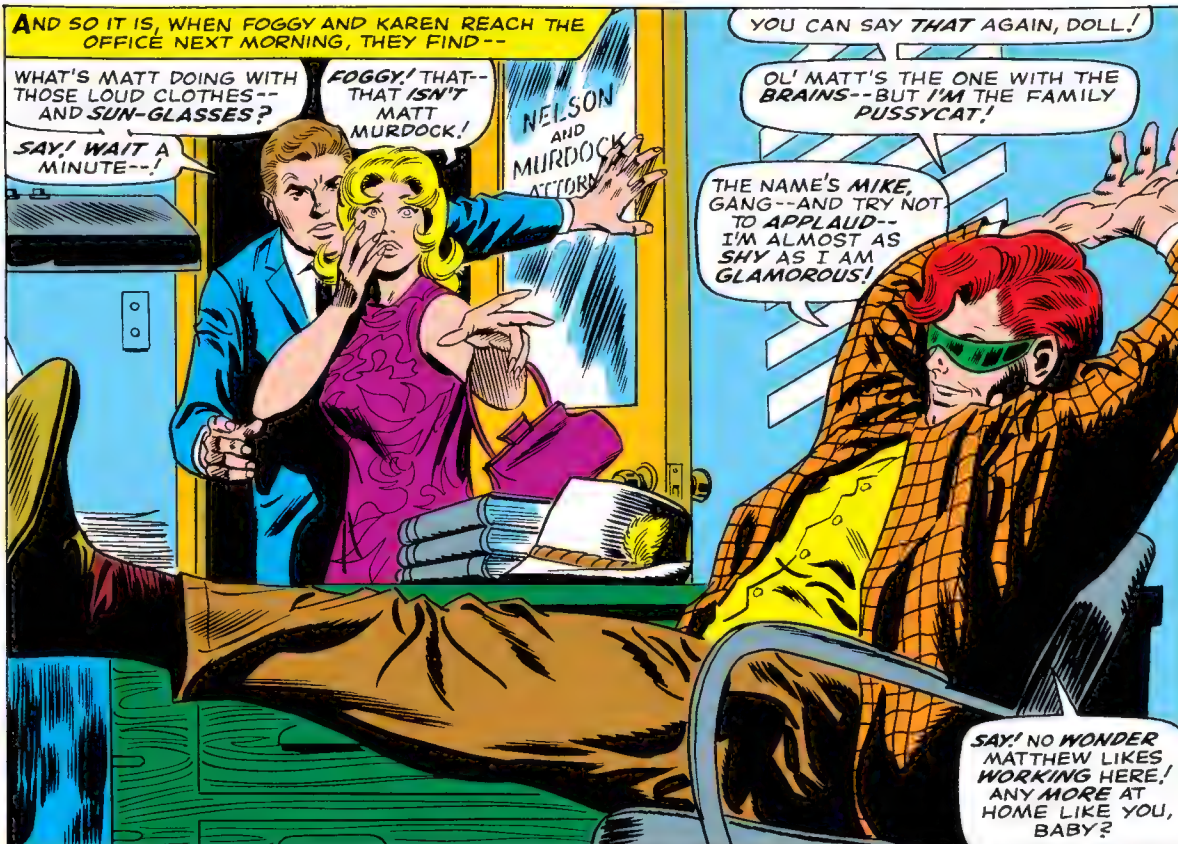
I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

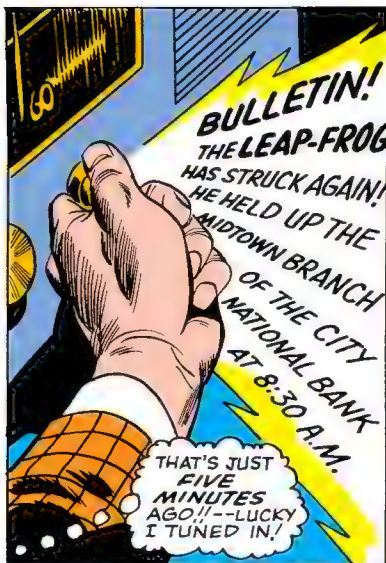
HE'S SO CONFIDENT THAT HE HASN'T EVEN TRIED TO STRIKE BACK AT ME! HE DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO CONSIDER ME A THREAT TO HIM!

BTYANN!

I WONDER WHAT NEW LITTLE GOODIES HE HAS UP HIS SLEEVE?







BULLETIN!

THE LEAP-FROG HAS STRUCK AGAIN! HE HELD UP THE MIDTOWN BRANCH OF THE CITY NATIONAL BANK AT 8:30 A.M.

THAT'S JUST FIVE MINUTES AGO!!--LUCKY I TUNED IN!



HOW ABOUT THAT, KITTEN? YOU DON'T KNOW IT, BUT THEY JUST PLAYED MY **THEME SONG!**

I'VE GOTTA CUT OUT FOR A WHILE, NO TEARS NOW, HEAR?

BOY! THAT LUCKY BROTHER OF MINE!!



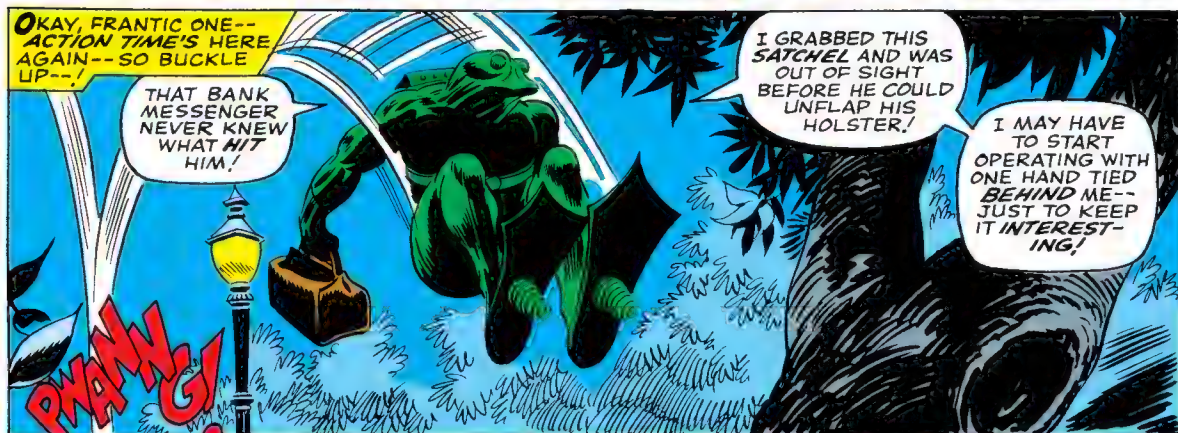
SO THAT'S WHAT A SUPER-HERO IS LIKE IN **REAL LIFE!**

--A SWAGGERING, SWELL-HEADED, LOUD-MOUTHED CLOWN!

HE'S NOTHING LIKE **MATT--** AND YET--

--HE DOES HAVE A CERTAIN **CHARM!**

YEAH! LIKE A HIP HYENA!



OKAY, FRANTIC ONE-- ACTION TIME'S HERE AGAIN--SO BUCKLE UP--!

THAT BANK MESSENGER NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HIM!

I GRABBED THIS **SATCHEL** AND WAS OUT OF SIGHT BEFORE HE COULD UNFLAP HIS HOLSTER!

I MAY HAVE TO START OPERATING WITH ONE HAND TIED **BEHIND ME--** JUST TO KEEP IT **INTERESTING!**



GOOD OL' RADAR SENSE!

I HAD A **HUNCH** THE LEAP-FROG WOULD MAKE HIS GETAWAY THRU THE PARK-- AND IT SURE IS A **BREEZE** TO ZERO IN ON A GUY WHO'S **BOINNNNNING** ALL OVER THE PLACE!

HE'S COMING RIGHT TOWARD ME! IT'S **NOW OR NEVER!**

AND **NEVER** IS TOO BLAMED LONG!

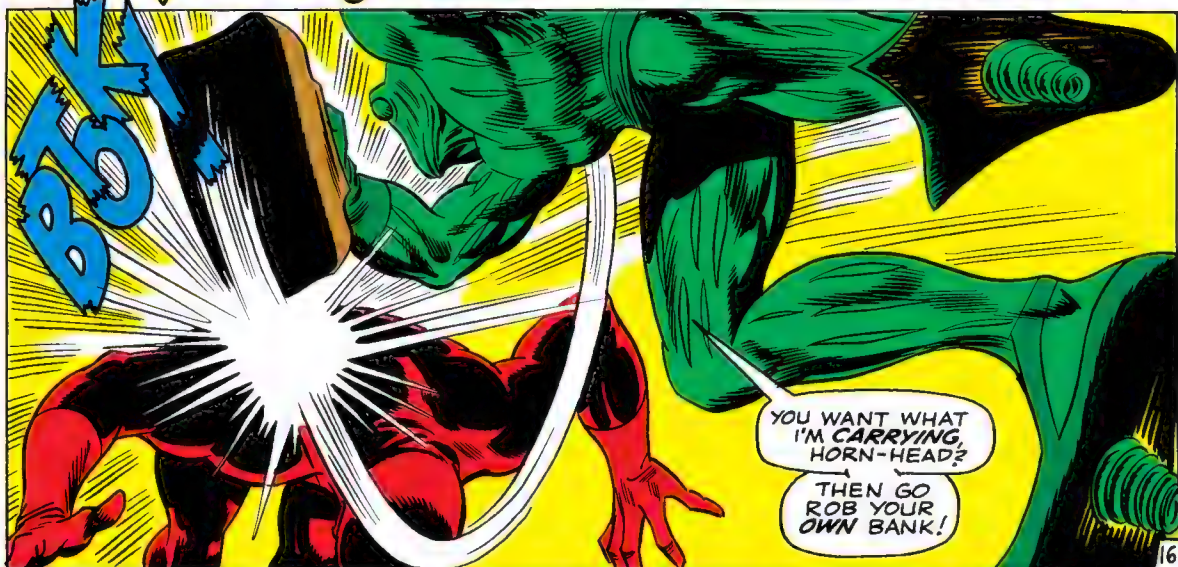
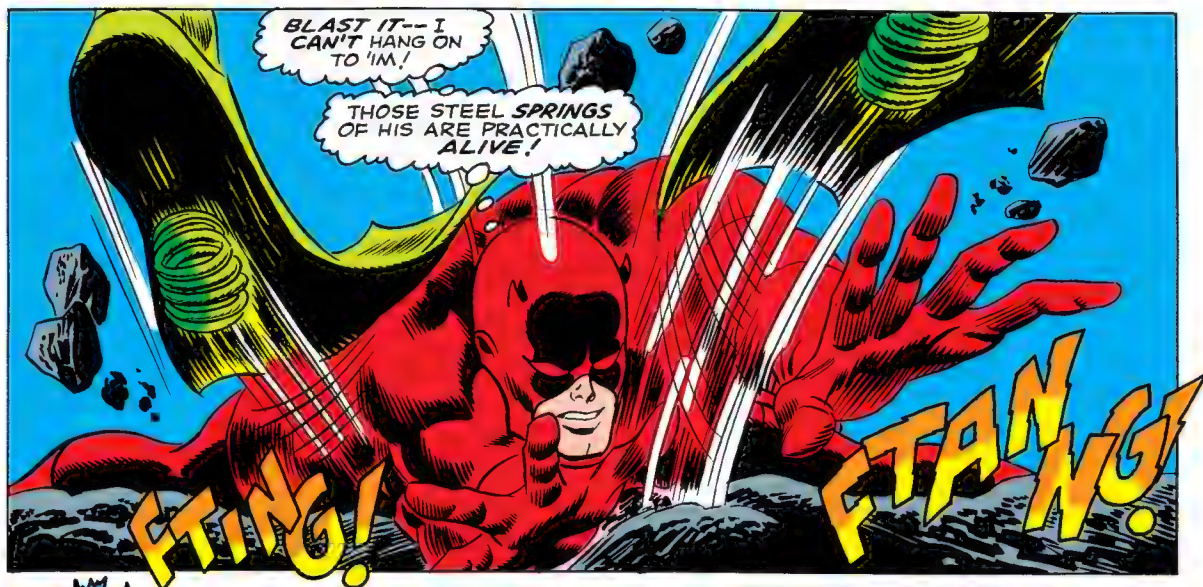
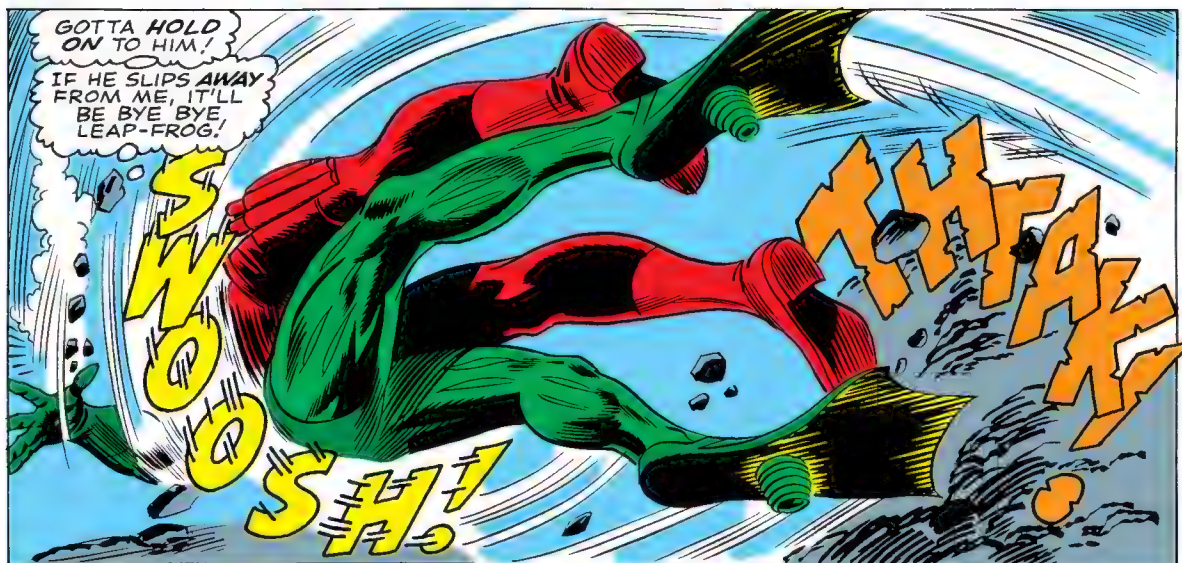


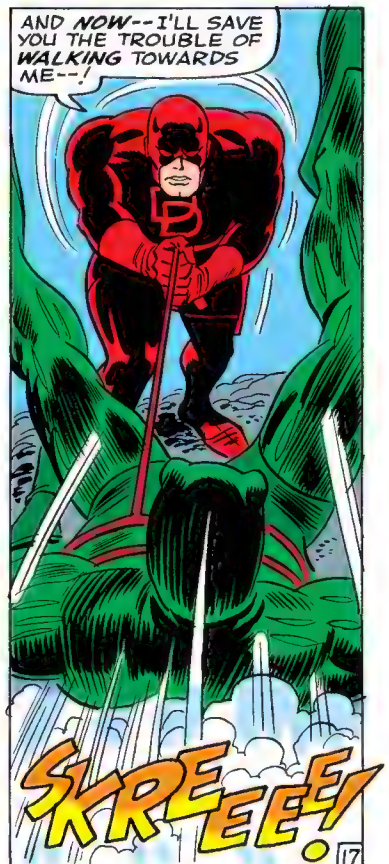
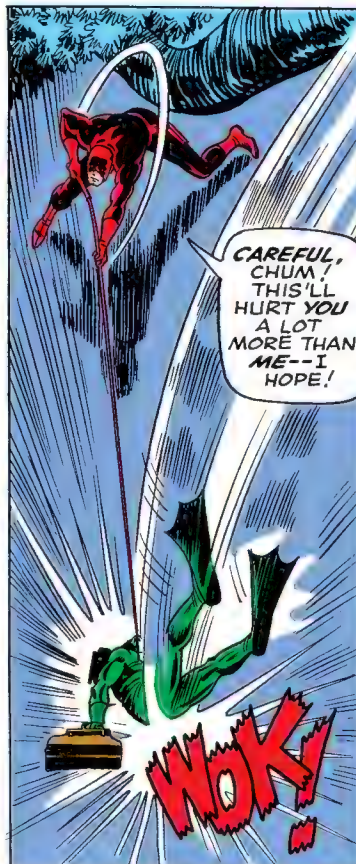
ETHUUMM!!

YOU!!

GLAD I BUMPED INTO YOU, **FROGGY!**

YOU DIDN'T SAY **"MAY I?"** WHEN YOU TOOK THAT **GIANT STEP!**





NO MATTER *WHAT* KIND OF WEIRD POWERS OR STUNTS I'M UP AGAINST, *NOTHING* EVER BEATS A SOLID PUNCH IN THE KISSER!

SOMEHOW, IT'S SO *CLEAN--SO CLEAR-CUT--SO SINCERE!*

AND, BEST OF ALL-- IT'S AS *AMERICAN* AS MOM'S APPLE PIE!



STAY STILL WHEN I'M TRYING TO *RELATE* TO YOU! YOU'RE LOSING THE *MESSAGE* --MISSING THE *POETRY* OF IT ALL!

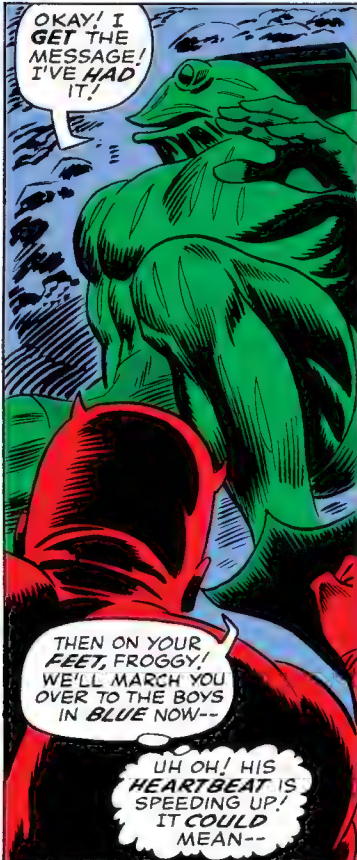
EVEN THOUGH I'M KNOCKING MYSELF OUT TO PUT AN *END* TO YOUR CAPRICIOUS LITTLE CRIME CAREER, WE DON'T WANT IT TO BE A *TOTAL LOSS* FOR YOU--

AT LEAST YOU CAN NURTURE YOUR *SOUL* WITH SOME PUNGENT *PHILOSOPHY* WHILE YOU'RE TAKING YOUR WHACKS!

HEY! PAY *ATTENTION!* THERE MAY BE A *QUIZ* LATER!



OKAY! I GET THE MESSAGE! I'VE *HAD* IT!



THEN ON YOUR *FEET, FROGGY!* WE'LL MARCH YOU OVER TO THE BOYS IN *BLUE* NOW--

UH OH! HIS *HEARTBEAT* IS SPEEDING UP! IT *COULD* MEAN--

BUT, BEFORE DD CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE--

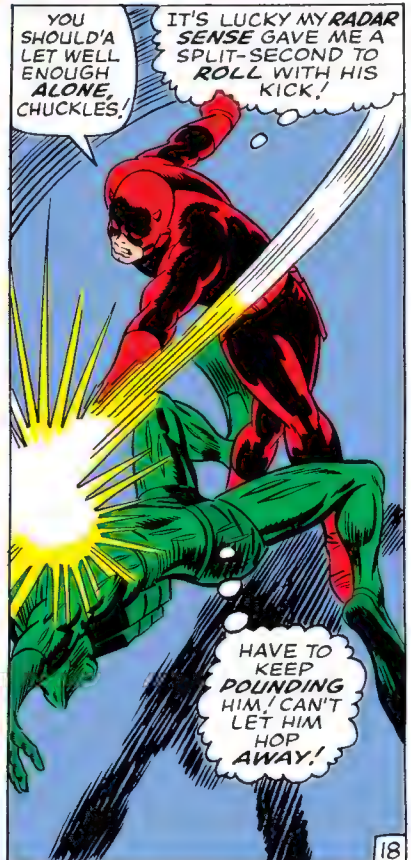
HE'S PLAYING *POSSUM!*--ABOUT TO *ATTACK--UNNNHHH!*



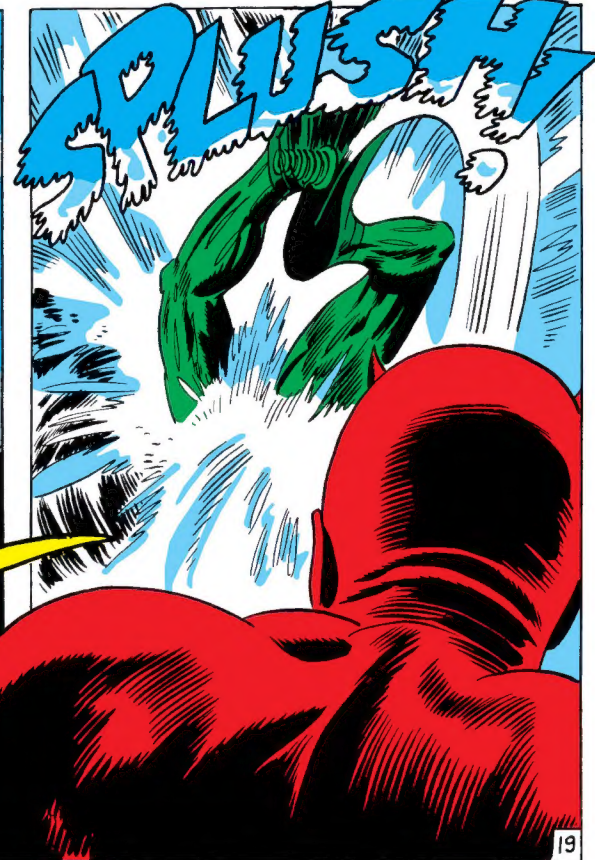
NOW THE *SHOE'S* ON THE *OTHER* FOOT!

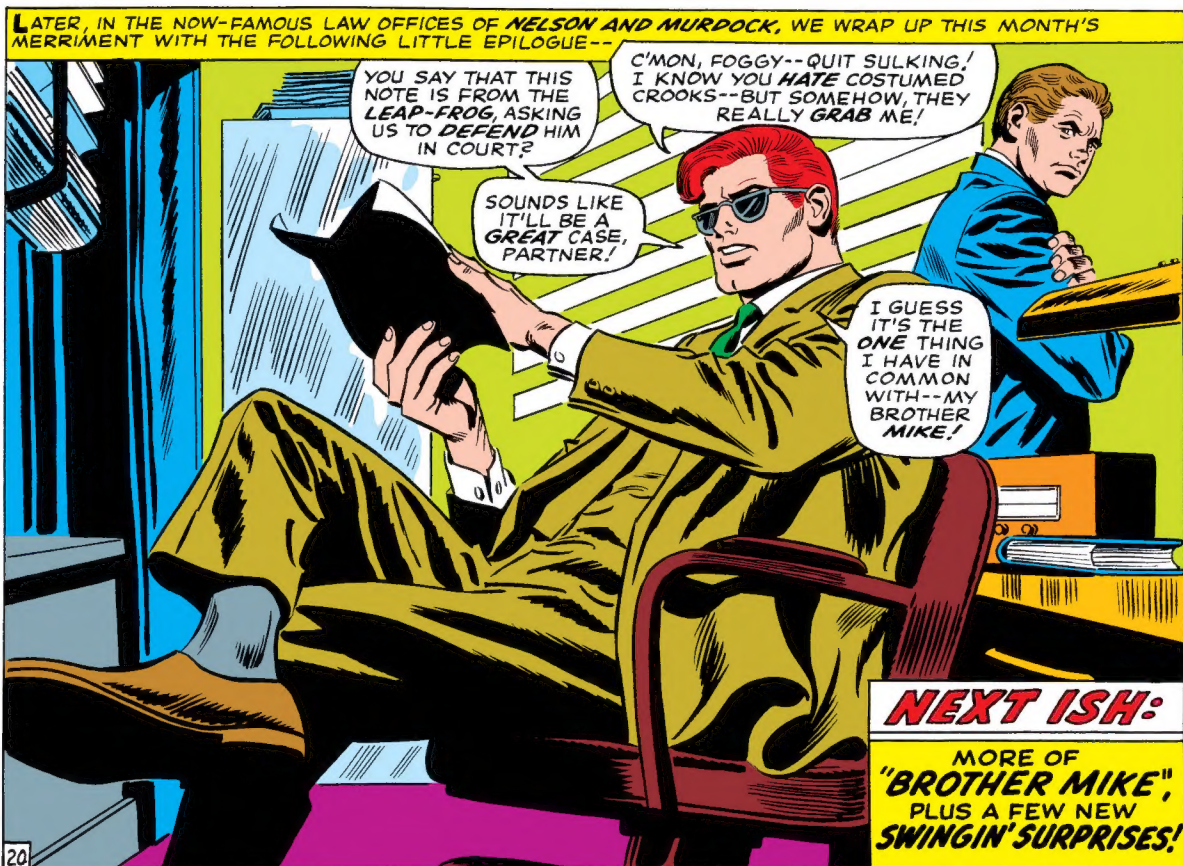
YOU SHOULD'A LET WELL ENOUGH *ALONE, CHUCKLES!*

IT'S LUCKY MY *RADAR SENSE* GAVE ME A *SPLIT-SECOND* TO *ROLL* WITH HIS *KICK!*



HAVE TO KEEP *POUNDING* HIM! CAN'T LET HIM *HOP AWAY!*





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**LET'S LEVEL WITH
DAREDEVIL**

SEND YOUR
LETTERS TO:

**THE MARVEL
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NEW YORK 10022
N.Y.**

Remember our big, earth-shaking "Hopelessness is..." contest? Well, literature-lovers, we received enough submissions to bury Galactus in! It would be a life-time job to sift them out and try to select the best ones, because they're all so chicken-scratchin' clever! So, we simply selected the first handful we received, and here they are—! (We hope you'll get as big a charge out of them as we did, but if you don't, at least it'll give you something to complain about in your next letter!)

HOPELESSNESS IS ...

- ... ICEMAN with a fever!
- ... The THING in a beauty contest!
- ... DAREDEVIL missing a flagpole!
- ... NAMOR being allergic to water!
- ... IRON MAN with an itch!
- ... ANGEL getting air-sick!
- ... HANK McCoy with a sprained ankle!
- ... SGT. FURY with only one shirt!
- ... DOCTOR DOOM needing a haircut!
- ... Brand Echh trying to catch up to MARVEL!
- ... SPIDER-MAN needing a favor from J. J. J.!
- ... The HUMAN TORCH getting a sunburn!
- ... QUICKSILVER with a sprained ankle!
- ... THOR developing a case of dandruff!
- ... Getting a license for LOCKJAW!
- ... CAPTAIN AMERICA needing a rest!
- ... GABE JONES with chapped lips!
- ... GOLIATH losing his stretch suit!
- ... HAWKEYE with astigmatism!
- ... DR. STRANGE without moustache wax!
- ... PROFESSOR X with a comb and brush!
- ... CYCLOPS with a case of eye-strain!
- ... The HULK disguised as Ant-Man!
- ... FOGGY NELSON on a diet!
- ... IRVING FORBUSH!

We could go on forever, but let's save some for later. In the meantime, keep sending them in, hear? We'll print 'em when you least expect it — in various different Marvel mags, wherever and whenever we have some room! In the meantime, our thanks to the following frantic ones who were responsible for many of the "Hopelessness is ..."s which you've just read, and many others besides —

Richard Weir, Peter Von Sholl, A. J. Melch, David Banks, Paul Harvey, Todd Freeman, Jr., Irene Uhnak, Loren Lieberthal, Kathy Lucchi, Tom Venturini, and Gar Stevens. (And, in the never-to-be-forgotten words of kissable Karen Page—*whew!*)

Dear Stan and Gene,

Since the introduction of Gallant Gene, Daredevil has become a favorite of mine. Issues #20 and #21 were really great, but #22 was even better. It seemed as though you changed inkers. Here are my views on a couple of your other comics this month. The art in X-MEN hasn't changed in a long time — it could improve. However, the story has taken a definite upswing. SPIDER-MAN was the best this month, mainly because of Mary Jane. On Spidey's aging process, let every 12 issues span four months, and their adventures would be almost weekly even though we would get them monthly. Well, that's all for now, but I'll be back on my soap box next month — same time, same comics!

Gary Robinson, 1409 Waco St.
Troy, Ohio

Threats! Threats! That's all we ever get! Anyhow, glad you like Gene's version of DD, Gary — that makes two of us! As for your other cogent comments, they are being transferred to the proper departments for consideration, analysis, and immediate action! (In other words, we'll think about 'em, pal — soon's we get the time!)

Dear Stan and Gene,

"The Tri-Man Lives" — wow! What a fantastic ish that turned out to be. As usual, Stan, the story was magnificently created and the artwork (look out, Jazzy Johnny!) was very good. At first I didn't like Genie-boy Colan's rendition of ol' dazzling DD, but with the arrival of DAREDEVIL #22, it sort-of inched over toward my favor. Good going on the cover of issue #22, Gene — it was much better and much less crowded than that of #21. Johnny Romita had previously proven that he could draw Daredevil magnificently in that now well-known ring-a-ding style! But Gene has proven that he can do it also, especially his adaptations to the likenesses of Matt and Foggy. Karen was alright, but she just wasn't the same Karen of old. On page 4, panel 4, Gene drew what turned out to be a perfect likeness to the style of Johnny. From looking at Gene's drawings of Karen, and of Pepper Potts in previous SUSPENSE issues, I gather that he likes his chicks on the slightly lean side and with long shoulder-length tresses, I was glad to see the return of that "Gruesome Twosome". All I can say for next ish is — what's a Daredevil??!

Derek Moore, 1746 Hauser Blvd.
Los Angeles, Cal. 90019

Uh uh! We're not answering till we find out what a Derek Moore is! But, till then, we just wanna mention that not only does Gentleman Gene like his chicks on the slightly lean side with long, shoulder-length tresses, but we'd be inclined to guess that his particular proclivity is shared by possibly a few zillion other males on this perfunctory ol' planet of ours! How does that grab ya, D.M.?

Dear Stan and Gene,

My colleague, John Tedder, and I are post-grad Industrial Design students at the Art College in Birmingham. Together we script, draw, and ink (sort of) a campus comic. I'm telling you this because it gives us some insight in appreciating the other side of Marvel. Thus, we wonder at the sheer technical accomplishment of so many exciting characters, plots that are at all times strong, a new approach to artwork and color, and an appeal that is anything but juvenile. And month after month! We discovered Marvel about a year ago and immediately noticed its superiority. So we hollered all over the place that, at last, here was the Pukka Publication. It was no sweat anyway — the appeal of your ishes lies in the intelligence and genuine creativity put into them. Marvel is synonymous with a sense of fun, and enjoys a good laugh, often at its own expense. You Bullpen buddies don't talk down to your public, they become part of a special in-crowd. The plots betray an all 'round knowledge of myth, magic, philosophy, history, pseudo- and other science — we suspect you have a mind similar to the late Charles Fort. All of your Marvel creations will surely be imprinted on the Akasha as the Ultimate. You all really enjoy this work — and it shows. But, all we really wrote for was to say — thanks! We remain your appreciative acolytes and Marvel missionaries —

Robert Rickard, 91, Streetsbrook Rd.
Shirley Solihull, Works., England

Bob and John — we love ya! Despite the popular impression, we don't really object to impassioned flattery, and you've both made our day, erudite ones! Now, if we can just figure out some way to get our peerless publisher, Merry Marty Goodman, to scan those deathless lines . . . !

Dear Stan and Gene,

I've got a few things to discuss and I'd like to start with Daredevil. Over 22 issues of DAREDEVIL have come out and, so far, the artwork has been fabulous! First Wild Bill Everett drew ol' DD and I thought the mag was great. Then a second artist came on the scene to do "the blind one" and the artwork was spectacular. When the next illustrator drew "the man with the billy club", well, let's just say Daredevil was tops. Then, John Romita's Daredevil was about the best I thought I'd ever seen, but finally Genius Gene Colan swirled his masterful pencil around and now Daredevil has really come to life! All I can say is that if the art in the next 20 issues is as marvelous as in the first 20, then you'll have the best drawn comic magazine ever to appear anywhere! Don't get mad, Stan, I like your plots and scripts, too!

Ted Billy, 1416 Orange St.
Berwick, Pa. 18603

Mad, Teddy? Boy, any time ol' Smiley gets mad over a letter like yours, that'll be the day! In fact, we'd better wrap things up while we're ahead! No telling what the next mysterious missive may say!

Dear Stan and Gene,

Oh, what have you done? I ask for the Owl back and I get a nut! Maybe if you just kept his hair white all the way through, I mightn't have cried so much. And that mechanical owl — arrrrh! Gad, hasn't someone over there ever seen an owl before?? Dinky eyes, a basketball head with a crinkly mouth, five toes, and wings that bend backwards? Mr. Audubon would not be proud of you. Btangg! Bee-yung! Car tops along Madison Ave. are being quickly and efficiently smashed in, and our red devil makes a mad dash before furious car owners. Should sensitive readers be exposed to this? And that bit on page 17 in issue #22 about Daredevil's karate chops — I haven't seen them in books, let alone real life. He must be tremendously strong to knock someone out with the flat of his hand — bad form for karate, though. And now, amidst other things, we come to the title, "The Tri-Man Lives!" No, you're kidding! I mean, really alive?! Can this be truth in reality? Oh, and I'd like two staples in my comic book, if you please — we collectors are very finicky about getting our full 12¢ worth.

Mike Jittlov, 902 Maltman Ave.
Los Angeles 26, Cal.

We always thought all our mags had two staples, Mike — but, if you've been inadvertently short-changed, don't worry — we'll admit here and now, before the

watchful eyes of Marveldom assembled, that we owe you one staple! But what's this about not liking our merry mechanical owl? We never claimed it was a real one, ol' buddy! As for the Tri-Man, next time we feature him we'll try to entitle our tome "The Tri-Man Dies!" We'll do anything to please a fan!



Dear Stan and Gene,

Mary Jane Watson sure is a modest little thing, isn't she? "Face it, Tiger . . . you just hit the jackpot!" And the way she posed for Pete's benefit — the little minx! She's even more conceited than Gwen Stacy. Aside from that, she's every bit as gorgeous as you said she would be. You know, Spidey cures more nuts of their nuttiness than all your super-heroes combined. Wouldn't it be funny if Pete Parker were studying to be a psychiatrist? Spider-Man, the Psychiatrist — doesn't that conjure up a mental picture for you?! Now for Daredevil — something occurred to me a while ago about the Marauder. Is it possible that the Masked Marauder might also be blind? And if he gets to thinking about the relation between his powers and Daredevil's powers — well! I've got a feeling that the Marauder is blind! Am I right? What better reason for him to fight the Gladiator so desperately to keep his identity a secret? What a surprise it would be to your readers if Daredevil had to fight a foe with the same handicaps and powers, only with the advantage of knowing DD's secret without DD knowing he knows it? See what I mean?

Rachel Presley, 2960 Ruskin Rd.
Memphis, Tenn. 32128

You've made yourself abundantly clear, pussycat — and your suggestion is as clever as it is far-out! However, as far as we know, the Masked Marauder has perfect eyesight. (Although it's been rumored that he is plagued with halitosis!) Anyway, it won't be long before you Keepers of the Faith learn his true identity — so don't go 'way, hear?

NEXT ISH: We're so excited that we don't know where to begin! You're gonna finally learn the actual identity of the Masked Marauder! But, that's only a fraction of the surprises in store! You'll also see the jazziest courtroom sequence outside of Perry Mason—plus lots more of the most off-beat new character of the year—the hairy, hip, and hilarious "twin brother" of Matt—none other than Mike (Madman) Murdock! But, even that is only a small sample of what's in store! Wanna hear more? Okay—see how this grabs ya—we're bringing back the last scintillatin' super-villain you've ever expected to see return—drawn as only Gentleman Gene can draw him—none other than the sinister Stiltsman! (Remember—from 'way back in ish #8?) If we had a kitchen sink we'd probably toss that in too, but you'll just have to settle for the most thrilling, fast-moving, action-packed yarn of all when your lucky little fingers finally latch onto DD #26! We know it'll wow ya because we flipped for it—and let's face it, frantic one—you're our kind'a cat! 'Nuff said!